# MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

## 25 MARCH 1985

### Iran-Iraq War

In retaliation for Iraqi attacks against two oil tankers in the Gulf on 24 March, Iran hit Baghdad with another missile early on 25 March, the Iranian War Information Headquarters announced in a statement cited by IRNA. Earlier, Iran announced a halt in attacks on Iraqi cities following a 23 March halt in Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities, the agency noted. However, Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani had warned Iraq on 22 March that Iran would fire a missile at Baghdad soon and he dismissed reports that Iran has no missiles, the agency reported. In retaliation for Iranian strikes against Baghdad and other cities Iraqi planes launched attacks against Tehran and Kashan early on 25 March, according to Voice of the Masses radio. The Iranian agency acknowledged the 25 March Iraqi attack against Tehran.

In the land war, the Iraqi I Army Corps launched an offensive the night of 22-23 March in mountainous areas "destroying enemy forces" and occupying positions, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Nevertheless, an Iranian military communique reported by IRNA contended that Iranian forces prevented "any movement" of Iraqi forces in the northwest operational sector.

Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, in remarks reported by IRNA, contended that if Iraq carries out its threats against civilian airliners Iran will level Baghdad airport.

### GCC and the Gulf War

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, in an interview with the Kuwait paper *AL-WATAN*, said that the Kuwaiti military is making preparations in case the Iran-Iraq war spreads to Kuwaiti borders. Shaykh Salim declared Bubiyan island a military zone equipped with antiaircraft weapons. He also said that plans for establishing a GCC joint strike force are underway and will be reviewed by GCC defense ministers.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait met with Algerian leaders on 24 March to discuss mediation efforts in the Iran-Iraq war, according to KUNA and SPA reports.

### Lebanon

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad told President Amin al-Jumayyil on 23 March that Syria supports Lebanon's attempts to confront plans aimed at hampering national accord, and he warned that Syria will not ignore any move that serves the interests of Israel, Damascus television reported. Meanwhile, Beirut radio cited Phalangist Party statements rejecting the "fait accompli imposed on some eastern areas" by the Ja'ja' movement, and accusing the insurgents of conducting a propaganda campaign over Voice of Lebanon radio, which responded by broadcasting a statement by a Lebanese Forces official blaming Phalangist leader Elie Karamah for "the present dire predicament" and for ignoring the views and aspirations of the broad base of the Phalangist Party.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri denounced "the tendency of certain Lebanese to side with Israel" at a press conference broadcast by Beirut radio, issuing a "final warning" to the Lebanese Forces and to "every collaborator with Israel in Sidon" that any replay of the recent "conspiracy" in the Sidon area will be "stamped out by force." Birri also denounced the kidnapping of three French Embassy personnel in Beirut on 22 March, responsibility for which had been claimed by the Islamic Jihad organization according to Paris radio. As for recent IDF operations in villages near Sidon, Birri claimed to have proof that the two CBS reporters killed by Israeli tank fire on 21 March were among civilians and not amid a group of gunmen, as claimed by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in a letter to CBS reported by Jerusalem radio.

### Pakistan

President Ziaul Haq, in a 23 March speech to the joint session of Parliament broadcast by Karachi radio, reaffirmed that Pakistan will not recognize or hold direct negotiations with Afghanistan as long as USSR forces are there. On his meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Zia noted Gorbachev's assertion that Pakistan has a hand in the external interference in Afghanistan, while Zia maintained that whatever is happening in Afghanistan is being done by the "mujahidin." Zia added that it was "hinted" in Moscow that bilateral relations may be affected if Pakistan does not change its attitude toward Afghanistan.

In a separate development, the new Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo received a unanimous vote of confidence from the National Assembly on 24 March, Karachi radio reported. In his speech Junejo called for the restoration of full democratic rules and the lifting of martial law "as soon as possible," the radio announced. Responding to the Soviet Union's threats to relations with Pakistan, Junejo stated that Pakistan will continue its present policy.

### PLO-Jordan Agreement

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in an interview with Jerusalem radio, said that talks between the United States and a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation will not advance peace in the Middle East. Shamir added that peace talks must be held with Israel and not between the United States and the Arabs. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Peres affirmed that Israel "totally objects" to peace negotiations between the United States and a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, and reiterated Israel's call for direct negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without PLO participation, according to a 24 March Israeli Cabinet communique broadcast by Jerusalem television.

On the Jordanian side, the Amman paper *AL-RA'Y* maintained that the U.S. stand on talks with a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation achieved neither "progress nor balance" because it is conditional on excluding the PLO from participation. Meanwhile, talks between King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat are expected in the "near future," the Amman paper *AL-DUSTUR* reported.

### Egypt

Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, at a 22 March Bucharest news conference reported by MENA, said that his talks in Romania centered around bilateral cooperation and Middle East developments. 'Ali noted that Romania's relations with Middle East countries permits it to play a "prominent role" in establishing peace.

### Sudan

Chairman of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) John Garang de Mabior, in a speech broadcast by the clandestine Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) radio, reiterated that the SPLA-SPLM are committed to the liberation of Sudan and the establishment of a democratic socialist republic. The SPLA-SPLM want to wrest power from the Khartoum regime, not negotiate with it, Garang added. He appealed to the Sudanese Army to "talk directly" with the SPLA in order to bring about peace.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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**Karmal Addresses Mohmand Tribal Assembly**
*LD251036 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Excerpts] At 1600 today Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, received a great assembly of the courageous Mohmand tribes at Delkosha Palace, the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

During this meeting, at which Najibullah and members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo were present, the elders, youths, and religious leaders of the Atmar Khel, Khoga Khel, Mama Khel, Dur Khel, and Khowizi tribes, who participated in the assembly, were introduced to Babrak Karmal.

After the recitation of verses from the holy Koran by Mawlawi Habibullah Khowizi Mohmand, Babrak Karmal addressed the assembly. He said:

Imperialism, regional reaction, U.S. imperialism and the warmongering Reagan administration, along with the Chinese hegemonists in an unholy alliance with the sold-out and counterrevolutionary bands, want to transform the tribal regions into a battlefield, to set the Pashtun tribes against each other, to undermine their freedom, customs and laudible traditions. Ultimately, imperialism wants to eliminate the Pashtun tribes in this region.

The military regime of Pakistan, on orders from international imperialism, recently spoke to the tribal regions in the language of guns and shells. By using force and oppression it wants to impose its policy on the tribes and to trample under foot the historical and traditional role of their elders and leaders by using thieves and highway robbers.

This is a continuation of the British policy which U.S. imperialism uses today in collusion with China to block the social, political, economic, and cultural development of the Pashtun tribes. It uses the Pakistani military, just as they did in the past. Now they also want to put their satanic plans into practice in the tribal regions.

Babrak Karmal added: In accordance with the traditions and customs of our fathers and forefathers in our free, independent, and common homeland, Afghanistan, let us maintain unity with other nationalities, tribes, and fraternal clans in order to prevent the illicit conspiracies of these satanic forces. Do not let them transform the tribal regions into a battlefield or set Pashtun brothers against each other or inflict damage to the historical unity and role of the Pashtun tribes. Our path is the path of assemblies and consultation; we pursue this path, which has been handed down to us by our fathers and forefathers. And this is the nucleus of our party and state policy. This homeland is the homeland of assemblies; all the tribes and the fraternal nationalities take part in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the country through assemblies and have a direct part in its leadership and administration.

Like all tribes, the Mohmand tribe has great value and importance in safeguarding the honor of the homeland and they have always made sacrifices. They respect the sacred tradition of the assembly and the council. The arrival of your assembly in the capital of revolutionary Afghanistan is an obvious example of this claim. Your honorable duty, like that of your fathers, is to throw out the bands of thieves and servants who have sold themselves for dollars and rupees, from your regions. Do not let them set you against each other and in this way put into practice the policy of the Americans, the British, the Chinese, and the Pakistani militarists. Let us unite to protect the honor of the people, to consolidate the people's sovereignty, to protect our common and revolutionary homeland, to unify our positions against the Pakistani generals, and to foil all the intrigues and conspiracies of their masters.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that on behalf of the Mohmand tribe, Ferdaws Khan Atmar Khel Mohmand, Malek Haji Dadel Khoga Khel Mohmand, Haji Yosof Khan Khowizi Mohmand, Malek Shah Gol Atmar Khel Mohmand, Haji Amanat Khan Khoga Khel Mohmand, Soltani Atmar Khel Mohmand, Malek Khayr Jan Khowizi Mohmand, all in turn assured Babrak Karmal that they extend the hand of unity to the PDPA and the DRA and are courageously defending the April Revolution and in particular its new and development stage.

In conclusion, Haji Khalil Mohmand read the resolution of the Mohmand tribes which was affirmed by the assembly participants with applause.

Resolution of the assembly of the Mohmand tribes:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We, the elders, religious leaders, and leaders of the Atmar Khel; Khoga Khel; Mama Khel; Duro Khel; Khowizi Mohmand tribes of Mohmand express resolute support for the April Revolution and its new and development stage, and for the humanitarian aims and policy of the Revolutionary Government of Afghanistan. We categorically state that the free tribes consider Afghanistan to be their homeland and consider the friendship of the Soviet Union with revolutionary Afghanistan to be the guarantor of the peaceful life, progress, and prosperity of the people of Afghanistan. We, the Pashtun tribes believe that friendship with the Soviet Union helps toward solving the problems of our people and nation and that all our Pashtun and tribal brothers will achieve prosperity. We, the Mohmand tribes and our tribal brothers, recognize the internal and external enemies of the April Revolution. We will no longer allow the militarist government of Pakistan, hegemonist China and the U.S. capitalists to undermine the freedom of the Pashtuns. We will keep aloft the live history of the Pashtuns.

The Pakistani Government has decided to station its military units in the free tribal lands and eliminate the traditional freedom and historical customs of the Pashtun tribes. The actions of the Government of Pakistan in Ghashay Zeyarat; the martyrdom of Haji Mohammad Hasan Khan; the elimination of Yar Pacha Khan in Ghazi Beg; and the bombardment of the house of Malek Wali Khan Koki Khel Afridi, are examples of the treacherous and savage measures of the military Government of Pakistan in the free tribal territories. Whenever the Pakistani militarists have encroached upon the historical honors and the territories of the free tribes, their aggression has been repulsed by all the tribes

in a great tribal movement and has forced it to retreat. We do not forget the history of our fathers. Now, too, we are resisting the militarists of the Pakistani regime for our freedom and tribal movement, and are safeguarding and protecting our tribal freedom and territory.

We, the participants of the tribal assembly of the Mohmand tribes, categorically announce to the militarists of Pakistan that the Government of Pakistan should not transform the territory of the free tribes into a war zone. Remove the rebel camps and counterrevolutionary elements from the tribal areas. The freedom of the Pashtuns must be protected.

In conclusion, on behalf of the tribal assembly of the Mohmand tribes, we assure Babrak Karmal and through you the PDPA Central Committee, its Politburo, and all the Afghan people that we resolutely support revolutionary Afghanistan and its revolutionary government. We assure all the tribal Pashtun brothers of the respect paid to and the protection of the sacred religion of Islam in Afghanistan. We pray for your health and the success of the April Revolution.

### 'Successful' Security Force Operations Noted

*LD241808 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] According to a BAKHTAR correspondent reporting from Nangarhar Province, a successful operation was recently carried out in the Darreh-ye Nur Baba, (?Katutash Khel), Kameh, Dakkah, and (?Tawda China) areas by the vigilant security forces, a number of rebels were crushed and 2 recoilless rifles along with 135 shells, 2 ZK-1's; 4 DShK's; 1 mortar along with 141 rounds of ammunition; 1 rocket launcher; 6 heavy machineguns, 45 assorted weapons; 171,600 rounds of assorted ammunition; and a quantity of hand grenades were seized. Another 218 mortar mines, 252 antitank mines, 1 recoilless rifle, 3 DShK's, and 9 assorted store rooms belonging to them were destroyed.

Also during an operation which was mounted in the Khaldari-ye Bala village, Paghman District, a number of the savage armed rebels were crushed and several of them were captured along with their ringleader, Muhammad Sharif, who belong to the Ittehad-e Eslami band. Their weapons were also captured.

### Security Forces Seize Rebel Weapons, Equipment

*LD241821 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] Quoting a responsible source from the security forces in Parwan Province, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that during a successful operation, which was recently mounted by the militant security forces in the Landar Khel and Kuh-e Safi areas of that province, a number of rebels were crushed and 10 DShK's, 4 heavy machineguns, 2 rocket launchers, 39 assorted weapons, 20 ground-to-ground missiles, 38 hand grenades, 50 cartons of medical supplies, and more than 10,000 rounds of assorted ammunition were seized. Another 4 DShK's, 1 mortar, 1 recoilless rifles, 1 food store and several hiding places of these murderers were destroyed.

Also during a successful operation carried out at the villages of Konduz Province by the vigilant security forces, a number of armed rebels were eliminated, 15 assorted weapons, 2 rocket launchers along with their ammunition, and a truck belonging to them were seized.

Moreover, during another operation, which was moented in the villages of Qandahar Province and in the major district of Khowst, Paktia Province, a quantity of weapons and equipment were seized and 3 DShK's, 1 recoilless rifle, 2 mortars, 124 assorted weapons, and 9 trucks, carrying weapons and equipment belonging to the rebels, which were put at their disposal for creating terror and intimidation, were destroyed.

## Further Reports on Ershad Leadership Referendum

### 'Massive Popular Mandate' Secured

*BK221515 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Excerpt] In the countrywide referendum, the president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has secured a massive popular mandate in favor of his policies and programs. As a result of his victory in the referendum, he will remain president until elections are held under the suspended constitution.

According to final unofficial results announced by the Election Commission today, President Ershad has secured 32,539,264 affirmative votes — 94.14 percent of the total votes cast. The negative votes numbered 1,901,217. That is, 5.50 percent. A total of 34,563,442 voters exercised their franchise in 22,994 polling stations throughout the country. The voter turnout was 72.14 percent. Total number of canceled votes is 122,961 — that means 0.36 percent.

### Ershad Thanks Countrymen

*BK221722 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, in a message to the nation congratulated and thanked the countrymen for extending their massive mandate in the referendum in favor of his programs and policies and his continuation as president till the election is held under the suspended constitution. He also expressed his deepest gratitude to the Almighty Allah. The president further said that the people of Bangladesh have once again proved their sagacity and farsightedness through their verdict given in the referendum. He reaffirmed his determination to continue his ceaseless efforts for peace, happiness and improving the lot of the people showing respect to their massive mandate.

### BSS Cites Ershad Remarks

*BK230721 Dhaka BSS in English 0629 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] Dhaka, March 23 (BSS) — President Lt Gen H.M. Ershad said here last night that the massive mandate given by the people in a referendum Thursday had "proved that the nation wanted peace, discipline, election and democracy."

In a message [as received] gathered to congratulate the president, Gen Ershad said the victory of the people was a clear verdict against "chaos and indiscipline" and was "opposed to create any disorder and anarchy in the society."

At the end of three-years rule, president sought the verdict of the people finding no other alternative. In fifteen months the president abandoned four times the parliamentary polls because the opposition parties refused to participate in the election.

Amidst thunderous applause and cheers the president said, with it also that his [as received] policies were endorsed and the country were in favour of "people-oriented policies and programmes in the referendum held on adult franchise."

The president holds the office of the head of the state until the elections were held under suspended constitution.

With the massive endorsement Thursday "we will continue policies and programmes" of the government.

### Delhi on Martial Law

*BK231605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] The Bangladesh president, General Ershad, has ruled out either the immediate relaxation of martial law or the release of political opponents in his country. He said this in an interview with a news agency after winning in Thursday's referendum.

General Ershad said that six major universities will remain closed indefinitely because of student unrest and violence. The restriction will be lifted gradually as soon as the law and order situation improves.

The opposition alliances say that their struggle against martial law will continue.

## Ershad Appoints Two New Ministers to Cabinet

*BK241301 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has appointed Mr Zakir Khan Chowdhury and Mr Anwar Hussain as members of the Council of Ministers. The oath of office was administered by the president at a simple ceremony at Banga Bhavan this afternoon.

Mr Zakir Khan Chowdhury has been given the portfolio of the Ministry of Youths and Sports. Mr Chowdhury, the presidential adviser on (?freedom), was earlier a state minister of the same ministry. Deputy chief martial law administrators, ministers, advisers, judges, and high civil and military officials were present on the occasion.

### Ukrainian Group Claims Shooting of Soviet Diplomat

*PA221442 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1357 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] New Delhi, 22 Mar (EFE) — The Indian police today reported that a Ukrainian organization has claimed responsibility for Thursday's assassination of engineer V. Khitrichenko, an employee of the Soviet Embassy in New Delhi.

The police said that a self-styled "Ukrainian Reactionary Force" [Fuerza Reaccionaria de Uckrania] called a foreign news agency in New Delhi to claim responsibility for killing Khitrichenko.

The anonymous caller said that his group's objective is the withdrawal of Soviet forces from his homeland.

Khitrichenko, a 47-year-old engineer who had worked for several years in the economic section of the Soviet Embassy, was killed by two individuals on a motorcycle near the Soviet diplomatic mission.

They fired on the embassy automobile in which a driver, Khitrichenko, and his wife were traveling.

The diplomat, whoi was shot four times, was taken immediately to a New Delhi hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The driver was not wounded, and Khitrichenko's wife was wounded only slightly.

Special army troops were called to the capital to reinforce scurity measures at all diplomatic missions, the PTI agency reported.

Khitrichenko's assassination came 5 days after the disappearance of Igor Gezha, third secretary of the Soviet Embassy, who left his house on Sunday morning to take a walk in the park and did not return.

Interior Minister S.B. Chavan today told the parliament that the search continues for the missing diplomat and that the security forces have launched a nationwide search for Khitrichenko's assassins.

According to PTI, checkpoints have been established at railroad and bus stations, roads out of New Delhi, and airports.

The police have also searched the homes of Iranian, Palestinian, and Afghan refugees and exiles.

New Delhi Police Chief S.S. Jog said they are investigating possible liks between Khitrichenko's assassination and Gezha's disappearance.

### Home Minister on Investigation

*BK221638 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Excerpt] The home minister has said that the government has taken a very serious view of the ghastly murder of an official of the Soviet Embassy in New Delhi. Replying to clarifications sought by members in the Rajya Sabha on his statement on yesterday's incident, Mr S.B. Chavan assured the house that all necessary steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents. He said the special task force in the diplomatic area has been augmented.

Answering a question, Mr Chavan said he cannot confirm or deny at this stage whether any outside agency or organization was involved since the matter is under investigation, nor can he say whether there is any link between the murder of the Soviet official and the disappearance of a Soviet diplomat 4 days ago. Members from both sides joined the home minister in condemning the incident.

### Missing Soviet Diplomat Granted Asylum in U.S.

*LD241411 New Delhi PTI in English 1230 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] New delhi, Mar 23 (PTI) — The Soviet diplomat, mr Igor Gezha, who disappeared a week ago, is now in United States having been granted political asylum there.

It was officially confirmed here today that Mr Gezha, third secretary in the Information Department of the Soviet Embassy in Delhi, had defected to the United States.

The Soviet ambassador to India, Mr V N Rykov, informed the Indian foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhadari, last night that Mr Gezha had gone to the U.S.

The U.S. charge d'affaires here, Mr Gordon Streeb, later confirmed that the Soviet diplomat had been granted political asylum and was safe in America.

Mr Streeb, according to official sources, stated that Mr Gezha sought political asylum in the U.S. at a point outside India.

Meanwhile, there was speculation in the Western diplomatic circles that Mr Gezha could have taken a flight to Kathmandu on Sunday and flown from there to the U.S.

The press attache in the U.S. Embassy here, mr W. D. Miller when contacted said he had no comments to offer.

Mr Gezha, 37, vanished during his usual early morning walk on Sunday in Lodhi gardens, well known park. His Soviet built car was found near the park. The diplomat, who had been in India for five years, was due to leave Delhi soon. His disappearance was followed on Thursday by the murder of another Soviet diplomat, Mr Vladistav Khitrichenko.

Khitrichenko was shot dead near the Embassy by two men riding a motorcycle as he was returning in a chauffeur driven car.

Police had swung into action following a complaint lodged about Mr Gezha's disappearance by Mr G Galkouskvy, first secretary in the Embassy. As part of its search for the diplomat police raised the premises of Afghan resistance movement in the city and interrogated a large number of Afghan nationals but without any success.

After the murder of the Soviet official police registered a case of abduction and intensified its search for Mr Gezha as well as the killers of Khitrichenko.

A Soviet Embassy functionary described the report of Mr Gezha's defection as "unbelievable" and said he was not a person to do so.

### Government Examining Case

*BK251252 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] The government is examining all aspects of the case as to how the missing official of the Soviet Embassy in New Delhi, Mr Igor Gezha, could have left India clandestinely. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha today, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, said India has conveyed its serious concern to the U.S. Government about this incident and asked for full details about it. The information received from them yesterday was thereafter conveyed to the Soviet Embassy, the minister added.

Later, speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan said the Indian Embassy in Washington has been asked to collect all details from the U.S. Government as to how Mr Gezha was given asylum. He said investigations so far have ruled out any link between his disappearance in New Delhi and the killing of another Soviet diplomat in New Delhi subsequently. A further probe is in progress and as soon as there is some new finding in the two cases, he would inform the house. Mr Khan said security around all embassies in the capital has been intensified in the meanwhile.

## Peace Mission Returns With Iraqi Leader's Letter

*BK221258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] The high-level delegation led by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, sent by the prime minister on behalf of India and the Nonaligned Movement to Baghdad and Tehran on a peace mission, returned to New Delhi this afternoon. Mr Khan told the AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that the Iraqi Government has appreciated the Indian gesture and reacted positively. He is carrying a letter from President Saddam Husayn for the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He will visit Tehran in a few days.

### Spokesman Comments on Mission

*BK221635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] The high-level Indian delegation which went to Baghdad in an effort to restore peace between Iraq and Iran is back in New Delhi. The delegation has brought the Iraqi president, Mr Saddam Husayn's written reply to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on various points relating to the war.

An official spokesman said this evening that the reply will be given to the prime minister, at whose initiative the delegation has been making peace efforts. On way to New Delhi, the delegation, which comprised the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, and the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, had a long discussion with the Iranian deputy foreign minister, Mr 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, at Dubayy. Mr Besharati had come to New Delhi as the Iranian president, Mr Khamene'i's special envoy and had met Mr Rajiv Gandhi earlier this week. The Indian delegation's assessment of its discussions in Baghdad was conveyed to Mr Besharati. The spokesman said that this will facilitate a more meaningful visit by the delegation to Tehran when it takes place in the next few days. It is expected that the delegation may go to Tehran after Mr Bhandari's return from his 4-day visit to Colombo where he is going on Sunday [24 March].

The spokesman said that both Iraq and Iran have expressed appreciation of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's initiative to restore peace between the two countries. The prime minister's special envoy, Dr J.S. Teja, also returned to New Delhi this afternoon from Tehran, where he had a meeting with President Khamene'i and three rounds of discussions with the deputy foreign minister, Mr (Shaykh ol-Eslam). He said the Iranian side is keen to receive Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, and the date of his visit will be fixed shortly.

The official spokesman emphasized that the fact that serious talks and discussions are taking place is itself a hopeful sign. The delegation's mission is extremely difficult, and miraculous results cannot be expected overnight since the war has been going on for more than 4 and 1/2 years.

India's initiative to restore peace between Iraq and Iran has created wide interest in the Gulf countries. The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, Anant Charlu, who accompanied the delegation, says that the defense minister of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Muhammad, met the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, in Dubayy today and had talks on the Iran-Iraq situation. Shaykh Muhammad said that the UAE and other Gulf Cooperation Council states want peace in the region and hope for the success of India's efforts.

## Gandhi, Singh Greet Ziaul Haq on National Day

*BK231448 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] Pakistan is celebrating its national day today. A military parade was held in Islamabad this morning. The president, General Ziaul Haq, reviewed the parade and took the salute. Addressing the parade, he said Pakistan wants friendly relations with all countries, especially its neighbors. American F-16 planes and recently-acquired Cobra helicopters took part in the parade.

The president and the prime minister have sent greetings to President Ziaul Haq on Pakistan's national day. In separate messages, Giani Zail Singh and Mr Rajiv Gandhi said India will continue her efforts for better relations with Pakistan.

## Reportage on Thai Foreign Minister's Visit

### Talks Held

*BK221630 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Sitthi Sawetsila and his party are currently visiting India, scheduled to last from 21 to 24 March. Yesterday the foreign minister and his party laid wreaths at the Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru memorials. In the afternoon, the foreign minister held talks with policy planning committee chairman Parthasarathy, who was acting on behalf of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as head of the Indian delegation during the meeting. ACM Sitthi told the Indian delegation that his visit was made to demonstrate the sincere desire of the Thai people and government to further promote and expand the long-standing friendly relations between Thailand and India. The delegations of the two countries exchanged views on international issues, such as arms reduction, the situation in Lebanon, and the Iran-Iraq war. Both sides shared similar views on these issues and agreed that the two countries will closely cooperate with each other — particularly in the UN Security Council, where both countries are nonpermanent members, representing the Asian group — in order to reduce tension and solve the problems for the benefit of peace in the region.

ACM Sitthi Sawetsila also discussed the Cambodian problem with the Indian delegation. Both sides agreed that the exchange of delegations and views between the two countries is very useful and should continue so as to create the better understanding of the Cambodian problem. Officials of the two countries should meet again within the year.

ACM Sitthi then called on the Indian vice president and president. In the evening, Indian Policy Planning Committee Chairman Parthasarathy hosted a dinner reception in honor of the Thai foreign minister.

### Meeting With Gandhi

*BK230519 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the visiting Thai foreign minister, Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, have exchanged views on measures to promote cooperation between the two countries. The Kampuchean issue also came up at their meeting. The Thai dignitary conveyed the greetings of his king and the prime minister to Mr Rajiv Gandhi and extended an invitation to visit Thailand. The Thai minister also held talks with the chairman of the Policy Planning Committee in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr G. Parthasarathy.

India and Thailand have signed a convention for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of evasion of taxes on income. The finance minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, signed on behalf of India while the visiting Thai minister for foreign affairs, Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, signed for his country.

### Sitthi Comments on Talks

*BK240902 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila has expressed satisfaction over the talks he had with Indian leaders in New Delhi, saying that they open a new era in the Thai-Indian relations. Air Chief Marshal Sitthi arrived in India last Thursday for a 3-day visit that will be followed by a 3-nation European tour. While in New Delhi, Air Chief Marshal Sitthi met with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who also extended an invitation for their majesties the king and queen to visit India.

Air Chief Marshal Sitthi briefed the Indian leader on the situation along the Thai-Kampuchean border. He said he stressed to Mr Gandhi that Thailand does not seek military confrontation with Vietnam but wants a political settlement on the conflict in Kampuchea.

During his second round of talks with the chairman of the Policy Planning Committee, Air Chief Marshal Sitthi presented documents that showed that ASEAN had been trying to seek a political solution to the 6-year-old conflict.

He also told Indian leaders that Thailand cannot accept the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea because the presence of Vietnamese troops in that country threatens Thai security. Air Chief Marshal Sitthi said, contrary to what had been reported, Thailand is willing to have a dialogue with Vietnam if Hanoi is sincere in wanting to reach a political solution.

During the talks, Indian officials expressed interest in buying Thai natural rubber and tin and having a joint venture in fishing with Thailand. Air Chief Marshal Sitthi also signed a trade agreement to prevent double taxation with the Indian finance minister. He leaves New Delhi for London today.

## Britain's Howe Cited on 'Sikh Extremists' in UK

*BK240901 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has said that his government is keeping a close watch on the anti-Indian activities of Sikh extremists in Britain. Sir Geoffrey told PTI correspondent in London that the British Government attaches the greatest importance to unity and territorial integrity of India. He said Sikh extremists will not be allowed to abuse Britain's hospitality. The foreign secretary said that a number of Sikh extremists in Britain have already been prosecuted or are facing charges for various offenses. He, however, said that the British Government can only take such action as the law allows.

## SWAPO President Arrives; To Meet Gandhi

*BK240907 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] The president of the South West African People's Organization, SWAPO, Mr Sam Nujoma, arrived in New Delhi in the early hours of today on a 3-day visit. Later, he had an

exchange of views with the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Dr J.S. Teja. The SWAPO chief will also meet the prime minister during his stay in the capital. Mr Nujoma's visit is in the context of the nonaligned nations' bureau meeting scheduled for next month. The main agenda of the bureau meeting is the Namibian issue.

### Gandhi Comments on Punjab Issue, Negotiation

*BK231355 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, laid the foundation stone of a national memorial in honor of great martyr Bhagat Singh and his two associates — Raj Guru and Sukhdev — at Husainiwala near Ferozepore this afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Gandhi said Punjab has always been in the forefront in protecting the honor and freedom of the country. He said history has proved that whenever the country passed through a critical period Punjab produced sons to protect its integrity. He said the farmers of Punjab helped the country achieve self-sufficiency in food. The prime minister said the country wants to solve the political and economic difficulties which Punjab has been facing for the past some time. Mr Gandhi said he is always prepared to initiate negotiation within the framework of the Constitution. The prime minister announced a package of measures to accelerate the pace of development in Punjab which has suffered during the last 2 years. These include completion of the Thein Dam and setting of up of an integral coach factory.

### Rajiv Gandhi Visits Riot Areas in Ahmadabad

*BK230942 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that tension in the riot-hit areas in Ahmadabad city is gradually lessening. More efforts are required to reduce the tension further. Mr Gandhi assured the people that measures will be taken to establish normalcy at the earliest and rehabilitate the affected people. He was addressing newsmen after a 2-hour-long visit of the affected areas in Ahmadabad this morning. The prime minister emphatically declared that those responsible for the disturbances will be punished. He announced a donation of 5 lakh rupees from the prime minister's relief fund for the affected people. The prime minister blamed the elements defeated at the polls, who are banking on communalism and casteism, for the riots in the city. He said it is painful that they have not accepted the verdict of the people. Mr Gandhi said they have to fight these elements. Mr Gandhi expressed satisfaction over the measures taken by the state government to meet the situation.

Giving his impression of the visit of the affected areas, Mr Gandhi said there is a demand by the people for increasing the quantum of aid. He has conveyed this to the chief minister. Mr Gandhi said his party organization will also make efforts to reduce tension in Ahmadabad. Peace committees will be formed in the city. Mr Chandulal Chandrakar will camp at Ahmadabad to look after this work.

In reply to a question about the reservation issue, the prime minister said we will try to arrive at a consensus on the issue. He ruled out the possibility of involvement of any foreign hand in the disturbances in Ahmadabad and Hyderabad.

The AIR [All India Radio] Ahmadabad correspondent, Digan Dave, who accompanied the prime minister during his tour of the affected areas, said Mr Rajiv Gandhi met a large number of people from different communities and inquired about the nature of the disturbances and the help given to them by the authorities. The prime minister visited a mosque where a number of families have taken shelter. He also visited a hospital and inquired about the riot victims. Earlier on his arrival in Ahmadabad this morning, the prime minister was received among others by the governor, Mr B.K. Nehru; the chief minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki; and the state home minister, Mr Amar Singh Chowdhury. Mr Gandhi has since left for Husainiwala in Punjab to lay the foundation stone of a memorial for Bhagat Singh.

### Two Killed on 22 Mar

*BK221619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] In Ahmadabad, two persons died as a result of stabbing in the northern part of the walled city when curfew was relaxed for 2 hours this afternoon. There were some other incidents of looting of shops and arson. The entire walled city was again put under indefinite curfew from 1200 noon. The 2-hour curfew relaxation period in the southern part of the walled city, however, passed off peacefully. People turned out in large number to purchase essential commodities.

### City 'Peaceful' 23 Mar

*BK240412 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] The situation in Ahmadabad city was peaceful last night. Following improvement in the situation, the authorities have decided to relax the curfew in different curfew bound areas of the city in rotation for 3 hours each from 0700 to 1000 in the morning and from 1200 to 1500 in the afternoon.

### Curfew Being Relaxed

*BK241615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] The situation in the entire city of Ahmadabad, including the old city under an indefinite curfew, remained peaceful throughout the day today. During the 6-hour curfew relaxation in two phases, no untoward incident took place. People in the curfew bound wall city felt much relief during the relaxation period at the end of more than 5 days' indefinite curfew. Markets in the city were flooded with heavy rush of people for the purchase of essential commodities.

In view of the improved situation in the last 2 days, the authorities have decided to further relax the curfew for 5 hours tomorrow in the afternoon in the entire wall city barring a few areas.

### Curfew in Areas of Hyderabad Relaxed 23 Mar

*BK230424 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] In Hyderabad, curfew is being relaxed today from 0800 to 1800 in the three police station areas of Asif Nagar, Mangalghat, and Tappa Chapapura as there is improvement in the law and order situation. The curfew was imposed yesterday following clashes between two groups.

### Further on Hyderabad Curfew

*BK240416 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] In Hyderabad, the curfew will continue until further orders in the three police station areas of Asif Nagar, Mangalghat, and Tappa Chapapura. The police commissioner, however, said that these areas remained peaceful yesterday, when the day curfew was relaxed.

### Deaths, Injuries Reported

*BK250900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] In Hyderabad, two persons died and eight others were injured last night in the curfew-bound areas of the city. A police spokeman said four others received stabbing injuries this morning in another incident. The condition of one of them is serious. The indefinite curfew is continuing in the three police station areas of Mangalghat, Asif Nagar and Tappa Chapapura.

### Opposition Leader in Chandigarh Killed 24 Mar

*NC211733 Paris AFP in English 1722 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] New Delhi, March 24 (AFP) — The general secretary of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) unit in Chandigarh, Krishan Lal Manchandu [name as received], was shot dead by gunmen tonight, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The agency said the slaying occurred after Mr Manchandu answered the door to two unidentified men, who then made their getaway.

### Demonstrations Banned

*BK250304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] The Chandigarh administration has banned demonstrations, taking out of processions and assembly of five or more persons throughout the union territory for 1 month with immediate effect. It has also banned pillion riding on two wheelers during both day and night.

The ban follows two separate incidents of murder by some unidentified miscreants in the city last night. In one case, two assailants went to the house of a local Bharatiya Janata Party leader on a scooter, called him out and shot at him. In the other incident, some car-borne assailants fired at their victim who was standing in the compound of his house. Police said this murder appears to be the result of personal enmity.

Security in Chandigarh has been further tightened. All educational institutions, including the Punjab University, have been closed in the union territory today as a precautionary measure.

## Ziaul Haq Addresses Parliament on National Day

*BK231808 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1450 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Address by Pakistani President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq to the joint session of Parliament on 23 March, live — intercepted in progress]

[Excerpts] Today the situation, by the grace of God, is completely different. There is peace, order, tranquillity, integrity, and unity in the country, and the economy has strengthened. Islamic values have been restored. Elections have been completed and the country, guided by the new leadership, is ready to move forward toward its Islamic destination.

Now, the person who is going to be entrusted with the seat of power is a prominent, prudent and patriotic personality of the country. God has showered many blessings on us. It is with great pleasure and happiness that I formally announce today that the country's new prime minister is Mohammad Khan Junejo. [applause] As you know, he is from Sind Province. But his personality is above all sorts of provincial, regional or (?group) feelings. He will take the oath as the country's prime minister immediately after my speech this evening. I extend my congratulations to him on assuming his new responsibilities and hope that not just the house will extend its confidence and cooperation to him, but that he will also try to walk alongside the members of the house. My prayers and good wishes, rather the entire nation's good wishes, are with you. [applause]

Members of the Federal Advisory Council, according to the Constitution, my position is that of head of state. But it is also a fact that the people on 19 December 1984 directly bestowed their confidence on me. Therefore, I feel morally obligated to supervise the process of further accelerating Islamization and the country's transition to democracy from martial law, because I am also accountable to the people. They gave me their vote of confidence before the general elections. (?So) I promised to continue the Islamization process, which I started 7 or 8 years ago, for 5 more years and to establish a democratic system in the country in a peaceful and orderly manner.

I am happy that the process of establishing elected bodies, which began with the election of local bodies a few years ago, has been completed — with the grace of God — today, 23 March 1985, in accordance with the 12 August program. With the completion of this process, the new leadership is assuming its responsibility at the national level, and according to what I knew and understood about this new leadership during the last 2-3 weeks, I am fully confident that the country's affairs will be handled correctly under the new leadership. [applause]

I would just like to request that the elected representatives of the people understand the delicacy of the situation and act with patience and restraint and refrain from doing anything that harms the atmosphere. Now that the new government is starting its new life, I feel it necessary to identify some points that I feel deserve the new government's attention. The first of these is the internal unity of the country. The house itself, which is elected from the length and breadth of the country, symbolizes the country's unity.

Second, our religion provides the most solid foundation of this unity. This religion once united the Arabs and non-Arabs, whites and blacks, rich and poor, and good and evil people. It will certainly prove a lasting means of ensuring unity and integrity among 90 million people living in the same country and having the same faith.

The third important factor is the coutnry's economy. We might recall that when we assumed power in 1977, our economy was very (?delicate). The national treasury was almost empty. After the untiring toil of the last 8 years, we have put the national economy on a healthy track, controlling inflation.

God bestowed on us the honor of becoming self-sufficient in food. The rate of agricultural production is considerably higher than the rate of population growth. Industrial growth (?graph) is very high and the overall economic situation is very good. I hope that the prime minister and his government will not just maintain the present pace of economic growth but will put it on a more concrete footing and will ensure that the Pakistani people gain economic prosperity.

Now a few words about foreign affairs. Our overall foreign relations are very satisfactory. Our relations with all major powers of the world, especially the People's Republic of China and the United States of America, are very (?developed). China, our great neighbor, is the only country in the world that has sided with Pakistan during all difficult times. [applause] Not only this, it has also provided valuable assistance to Pakistan to help it stand on its feet. Our relations during the past few years have further deepened.

Similarly, our relations with the United States are very old. Despite ups and downs in the past, our bilateral relations during recent years have increased considerably and their present level is highly satisfactory.

Our relations with the Islamic countries are a major aspect of our foreign policies. Both within and outside the Islamic Conference Organization, we have established very deep ties with our Muslim brethren. We are proud of this.

The third important aspect of our foreign policy is Pakistan's place in the Nonaligned Movement. You might recall that Pakistan became a member of this movement during the term of the current government and it has actively participated in this movement at all levels, including the summit conferences, and helped Pakistan gain a respectable position in this forum.

When you turn a little away from these international forums and look at Pakistan's geographical location and its bilateral relations with its neighbors, you will find some signs of improvement in some places, but regrettable situations in some others. During the past 8 years, we have tried to normalize relations with neighboring countries, especially India, and by the grace of God our efforts have not been in vain. During the past 5-6 years, there has been considerable progress in this direction. But last year, this process unfortunately experienced some stalemate. Now again, negotiations between Pakistan and India are to be resumed, and we hope that this process will be carried forward in a satisfactory manner and mutual doubts and suspicions will

be removed, bitterness of the past will be forgotten, and our two countries will be able to begin a new era of bilateral relations in an atmosphere of mutual trust.

The real center of concern is the situation in Afghanistan, which has been occupied by foreign forces for the past 5 and a quarter years — a period longer than World War II. Afghan mujahidin are facing a superpower almost bare-handed. They have sacrificed their lives and property over the last 5 years, but are not ready to bow their heads. They are adding a golden chapter to the history of independence. We salute their courage and sacrifice and pray to God for their success. [applause]

Our stand on the Afghanistan problem is that as long as the Soviet forces continue to occupy Afghanistan, we will neither recognize the Kabul government nor hold direct negotiations with it. This is a principled (?stand) and there can be no compromise on this with any country — large or small. You all [words indistinct].

During these days, if a comparatively smaller country is surrounded by almost all big neighbors, then its security environment becomes a very alarming situation, especially when it sees some impediments coming in the way of its relations with these big neighbors. But, by the grace of God, Pakistan has very good relations with its biggest neighboring country, China, which I just mentioned. Afghanistan is our smaller fraternal country. We are (?improving) our relations with India. The Soviet Union is also now our neighboring country and our relations with it have improved. But the question is not over the extent to which relations are good or bad; the question is over principles. In this 20th century and 15th Hegira era, will you allow the mighty to dominate the weak? Do you expect a superpower to enter a neighboring country as it pleases, giving whatever excuse it likes? In my opinion, as far as principles are concerned, we have raised our voice against this, most of all. We said our neighboring country, our brother, should stand in the row of Islamic nations; it should remain a member of the Nonaligned Movement. Now you tell me whether we should freely give the right to strangle the independence of that nation to those who are occupying that country with 150,000 troops. We did not say whether there is any justification for this occupation or not. We want [as heard] that it is not justified, and we recognize that, as a superpower, it is their duty to understand the concept of a good relationship with a neighboring country.

We also acknowledge that they do not want one of their neighbors to be hostile. We have been clamoring for the last 5 years and, by your blessings, 119 countries from all over the world have supported Pakistan. But what was its effect on us? The effect was that today, 3 million refugees are Pakistan's guests in the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] and Baluchistan. We pray that God will enable us to fulfill the responsibility of a host. Indeed this responsibility has been fulfilled by people of these two provinces and most of the Pakistani people. If I tell the story of the present refugees and hosts then it will take you back to 1,400 years ago. [reference to migration of prophet Mohammad to Medina as refugee and his warm reception there] Incidents happened that baffle people. There are people even in this materialistic world, in the present situation, who call themselves Muslims and leave their home and tell the refugee brother that half of the bread is yours and half is mine, one roona is for you and one for me. Come and share my house, land, cattle and fodder. Five years passed this way. [applause]

I salute the Pakistani people today and especially the people of the NWFP and Baluchistan who have sincerely loved these refugee brothers for the last 5 years. Now, after 5 and a quarter year's efforts, what would you expect from Pakistan? Should we go and see [word indistinct] or should we accept that anyone can go to anyone's country whenever he likes? It is never possible. What is more valuable than independence in this country or the world? If you cannot (?work) according to your conscience and maintain your independence, then you should curse that life. We have made great sacrifices to achieve life's independence and receive God's reward — Pakistan — after years of efforts. If one wants to ask the price of freedom, he should ask us. And one of our neighboring countries is paying this price for freedom today. What we regret is that we could not assist in the activities that have been happening inside Afghanistan. What we are doing is assisting those refugees who are in our territory. Despite this, we have been accused of interfering in another country!

We clearly stated that we neither interfere in any country nor allow any other to interfere in our country. But as an independent country, as a neighbor, it is our duty to actively help the refugees from our brotherly country Afghanistan during this time of tribulation. You must believe that the people in the socialist world forget things very quickly, but during the past 5 years neither Pakistan nor its NWFP, nor Baluchistan have forgotten this. Almost 119 countries have helped Pakistan morally and politically, and our all Muslim brothers, fraternal Muslim countries, and all those [words indistinct] countries who understand the spirit of this problem have actively supported us.

On my own behalf and on your behalf, I want to thank all of them and pray to God to bless us with the divine guidance to remain steadfast to our principle. You must believe that if I were able to reveal my heart before you, you would have seen its condition and then realized the afflictions of my heart. I cannot tell you about it, but you could have realized it. And I would like to inform you that there (?will be) more progress on this issue. We may face more problems, but I believe that the people's representatives who have secured the people's confidence will raise their voices louder and go farther than I have regarding the Afghanistan problem. [applause]

But we know that there is no military solution to this problem, as war is not the solution to this problem. The solution lies in negotiations. And to find a political solution, we have turned to the United Nations.

We are trying to find a political solution to this serious problem through indirect negotiations under the aegis of the United Nations, and will continue to extend our fullest cooperation to the UN secretary general's personal representative, and will continue to serve 3 million refugees so long as the Afghanistan situation does not improve because this is our religious duty as well as our humanitarian responsibility. We have accepted this responsibility voluntarily and are discharging it very happily and will continue to do so, God willing, until the situation improves.

You must be interested to know about my talks with the new Soviet leader, the Communist Party general secretary, Gorbachev, when I went recently to Moscow to attend the funeral of the late Soviet President Chernenko. I certainly want to take this house into my confidence in this regard, because we do not know how long you will have to face this problem. Gorbachev, like his predecessors, told Pakistan that it has a hand in the external interference in Afghanistan, while I explained to him that in this regard we are looking after the refugees on humanitarian grounds, and what is happening inside Afghanistan is being done by the mujahidin. [Words indistinct] in this meeting, while he recognized the need for a political solution to the Afghanistan problem, he also hinted that a political solution in Afghanistan is possible only when outside interference in Afghanistan stops. I assured him that we have not interfered in Afghanistan before, nor will we do so in the future. Although we had contacts with the Soviet Union in connection with this issue before, this time a new element has been added to it. The situation before was that we two countries were emphasizing promoting bilateral relations and cooperation despite the existence of the Afghanistan problem. The economic cooperation between Pakistan and the Soviet Union is still continuing, and I hope it will continue in the future, too, God willing. But it was also hinted in Moscow this time that if Pakistan does not change its attitude toward Afghanistan, then the bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Pakistan may be affected.

We hope that the Soviet Union will adopt a conciliatory attitude and a situation will not be created that affects our relations. This house, which secured the people's (?direct) confidence, is certainly capable of tackling the situation better, and I am confident that the house will debate this important issue at an appropriate time and adopt a bold and honorable stand on it.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, on our west, is engaged in a bloody war with another Muslim country, Iraq. Recently the war further intensified. We are deeply concerned over this tragic war and, on our part, we are making every possible effort through the Islamic Conference Organization to bring this war to an end. We pray to God that this confrontation between our two Muslim brothers in our region will end and that peace will be restored, and that these countries, instead of war, will spend their resources on the wefare of their people. Amen.

This is the domestic and foreign situation of Pakistan under which the new government is assuming its responsibilities. I am not dissociating myself from these domestic and foreign responsibilities. I am here and, God willing, you will always find me ready for any service for another 5 years. But in the parliamentary system of government which begins today, the prime minister will be the head of government who will fulfill his responsibilities through his cabinet and the house. [applause] And I wish and pray for his success in the mission and for the country's progress under his leadership. Amen.

I have explained some of the points [words indistinct] of my speech. Therefore, I am presenting a gist of points of my speech that deserve attention, and which may be debated by the house according to its preferences. The first and the most important point relates to accelerating and consolidating the Islamization process which should always remain in view of the house. The second point is about the future of political parties, and the house has to decide what will be the position and status of political parties in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. If they are to be restored, then how? The third point relates to the election expenditure limits and related matters.

After these three points, I would like to state that the people's daily problems should remain as a focus of our attention. Whether the system of government is parliamentary or presidential, military or civilian, the real test of each system and government lies in how well it succeeds in mitigating its people's problems.

**Zia Inspects Parade**

[Editorial Report] Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu at 0450 GMT on 23 March begins carrying live coverage of the National Day parade and fly past being held at the race course ground in Rawalpindi. President Ziaul Haq is present at the parade. At 0457 GMT Ziaul Haq begins inspecting contingents of the parade comprising three wings of the Armed Forces, civil defense volunteers, and the national cadet corps. After the inspection of the parade, Ziaul Haq begins addressing the parade at 0517 GMT.

Ziaul Haq congratulates the parade commanders and participants for making the parade a success and reminds people of the importance of the day when Muslims of the subcontinent pledge to establish their homeland in Paksitan. Ziaul Haq refers to steps taken by his governemnt in the last 7-8 years to Islamize society and says he hopes the elected representatives will carry forward this process of Islamization. Zia says we are paying attention to defending our independence and improving the living conditions of our people. He emphasizes "national security and the country's defense have great importance in our strategy. For this, strengthening the country's ideological and geographical frontiers is (?very) important." Continuing, Zia says "The government is trying to equip the Armed Forces with the most sophisticated weapons possible considering the national resources." He adds that "The defense capability of our Armed Forces has never been exceeded in the past. We will, God willing, continue our efforts to improve this capability." He says: "I want to make it clear that we have no aggressive designs against anybody. We only want the defense of our independence and do not want to be a threat to others' independence." He adds, "That is why we desire deep friendly relations with all nations, especially our neighboring countries. We want to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and free of tension in which we can peacefully spend all our resources on the welfare of our people and achieve the true goals of the creation of Pakistan." Zia ends his 8-minute address by exhorting people to continue working for a truly Islamic society.

Ziaul Haq then takes a salute from the fly past of the Air Force and march past of the parade. In the fly past 97 aircraft including F-16's, Mirages, and Cobra helicopters take part. The fly past is led by Air Chief Marshal Jamal Ahmed Khan in an F-16. After the fly past, parade columns march past the saluting dias followed by various tableaus and floats reflecting Paksitan's economic, industrial, and social progress and various aspects of life

in the four provinces. Live coverage of the parade ends at 0645 GMT.

## President, Prime Minister Sworn In 23 March

*BK231818 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Excerpt] General Mohammad Ziaul Haq was sworn in as the elected president of Pakistan under the constitution in a joint session of parliament in Islamabad this evening. The chief justice of Pakistan, Mr Justice Mohammad Haleem, administered the oath. The president addressed Majlis-i Shoora [Parliament] and later administered oath to Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo as prime minister.

### Gandhi Sends Congratulations

*BK250519 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] Indian President Giani Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi have sent messages of congratulations to General Mohammad Ziaul Haq on his assumption to the office of president of Pakistan. The Indian president in his message hoped that relations between the two countries would improve which will be greatly appreciated by our people.

The Indian prime minister in his message said it was his earnest hope that friendly relations between the two countries and people will develop in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement.

## New Prime Minister on Cabinet, Foreign Policy

### Speaks to Newsmen

*BK231822 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1708 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] Talking to newsmen tonight, the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, said that he would seek the vote of confidence from the National Assembly which meets in Islamabad tomorrow morning at 1000 [0500 GMT]. He said he would be forming his cabinet (?shortly) after the vote of confidence. The cabinet would be formed in phases and would comprise independent members who will be men of integrity and of high capability.

He said his first priority would be to see complete establishment of democracy and making Pakistan a truly Islamic state. He said he would pay main attention to the uplift of common man and the development of underdeveloped areas of the country. He also spoke of full attention that would be accorded to the development of agricultural sector.

Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, in reply to a question about the revival of political parties, said that this matter would have to be decided by the National Assembly. Answering a question about political detinue, he said in his opinion no one should be detained without any reason. However, he said it was a provincial matter.

Answering a question about prices, he said that this was a worldwide phenomenon. He pointed out that as far as Pakistan was concerned the prices were comparatively not so high. However, the people of fixed (?incomes) have been affected by the price hike and the government would pay full attention to it.

### First Speech Cited

*BK241557 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo received a unanimous vote of confidence from the National Assembly today. Following the vote of confidence, the members of the house expressed their happiness by thumping their desks for a long time.

In his first speech, the new prime minister emphasized that he will try to uphold the rule and supremacy of law and to provide justice and solutions to the grievances of the people. He expressed his desire for the restoration of full democratic rules and for the lifting of martial law as soon as possible and said he has held discussions with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in this regard. He said this task will be accomplished under a proper program without any undue delay so that fully civilian government can be established in the country.

Commending the work done during the past 8 years in connection with the establishment of an Islamic system in the country, he said those steps will guide him in carrying forward this task. He said the government will accelerate the Islamization process in accordance with the aspirations of the people.

Mohammad Khan Junejo thanked the members for expressing complete confidence in him. He said instead of waiting for the stipulated 60 days, he chose to seek the vote of confidence of the house without any delay so that they can move forward without wasting any further time. He called upon the people to rise above regional considerations and work for unity, integrity, and prosperity of the country.

Spelling out his priorities, the prime minister said: [Begin Junejo recording] Seventy percent of our population lives in rural areas which are backward. Most of the areas whether in Sind, Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, or Baluchistan are affected by water logging and salinity. It will be my (?first) priority to eliminate water logging and salinity in Pakistan through a (?plan). As far as education is concerned, I regret to say that the standard of education in Pakistan has fallen considerably. The standard of education should be high. It should be such that our children get the right type of education to help achieve our goals. We should fully try to eliminate the (?evil) of bribery. [words indistinct] You should march forward on the right path. Forget about bribes. [laughter] There will be no place in Pakistan for those indulging in bribery. [end recording]

About the country's foreign affairs, the prime minister referred to the Afghanistan issue and said the gravity of the situation could be realized from the fact that a superpower has said that its relations with Pakistan could be affected if Pakistan helps the Afghan Muslim brothers. The prime minister recalled the

president's address on the Soviet attitude to the Afghan issue in the National Assembly last night and said that if we are guided by our faith and continue to abide by our principles on Afghanistan, then God Almighty will help us. He paid glowing tribute to the people of Pakistan, especially of Baluchistan and the North-West Frontier Province, for extending humanitarian assistance to 3 million Afghan refugees.

The prime minister also referred to China and said it has always helped Pakistan and it is our trustworthy friend. He, however, pointed out that our national (?outlook) should be to stand on our feet rather than depend on others. For this purpose, he emphasized that we must set our house in order and improve the internal situation. He said the need of the hour is national unity and cohesion. We are Pakistanis first, Punjabis, Sindhis, Baluchis, and Pathans second. Our survival lies in rising above all parochial consideration. He assured the house that it will be his endeavor to sincerely serve his countrymen without any discrimination and rise to the expectation of the nation.

### NAWA-E WAQT Editorial

*GF241848 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 22 Mar 85 p 3*

[Editorial: "Mr Junejo's Nomination — A Test for the President and the Prime Minister!"]

[Excerpts] The nomination of Mr Junejo as prime minister is undoubtedly very important but not unexpected. His name was being bandied about for this post since January when he was elected to the National Assembly.

It is expected that Mr Junejo will enjoy the support of the federal and provincial assemblies and that he will be able to discharge his responsibilities in favorable circumstances as the country's chief executive. In light of the circumstances prevailing in the country and the phase that we are passing through, the political element is minimal, in fact subliminal, and this is not far from the truth. This state of affairs started with the imposition of martial law in 1977.

Mr Junejo has had some training. He has been a minister under the unity government and he was also a minister in the early days of this martial law period when some ministers of the defunct national union were appointed as ministers.

The president has said that the chief ministers of various provinces will be nominated after consultation with the prime minister so that things may not reach a point where the prime minister goes in one direction and the chief ministers in the other.

### Zia Congratulates Ershad on Referendum Success

*BK221541 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has congratulated the Bangladesh president, General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, on his landslide victory in the referendum. In a message, the president said the manner in which the people have expressed their overwhelming and clear support for your policies will provide Bangladesh with a confident and stable leadership in the coming years. He said this is a matter of satisfaction and happiness for the friends and well-wishers of Bangladesh. He expressed good wishes on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan and on his own behalf for the progress and prosperity of the Bangladesh people.

### National Assembly Speaker, Deputy Elected

*BK230511 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] Syed Fakr Imam was today elected speaker for the National Assembly and Sardar Wazir Ahmed Jogezai as the deputy speaker. Syed Fakr Imam secured 119 votes out of 230 votes cast through a secret ballot at a sitting of the National Assembly in Islamabad this evening. The only candidate for the speakership, Khwaja Mohammad Safdar [chairman of the dissolved Federal Advisory Council], secured 111 votes. The chief election commissioner, Mr Justice S.A. Nusrat, administered the oath to the newly elected speaker. Later Syed Fakr Imam took his seat as speaker and administered the oath to Sardar Wazir Ahmed Jogezai who was elected unopposed as no other candidate had filed nomination papers for this position.

The speaker of the National Assembly thanking the members of the house for electing him said that it would be his main endeavor to uphold the prestige and dignity of the house in cooperation with its members. He said as speaker he would deem it his duty to ensure that the words of the members [word indistinct] the people in accordance with Islamic democracy and parliamentary practices.

Earlier, a number of members including Khwaja Mohammad Safdar congratulated Syed Fakr Imam on his election as speaker of the National Assembly. They said that the entire house will extend him full cooperation.

### Official Says Nuclear Fuel Produced Indigenously

*BK251055 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] Pakistan is planning to establish 5,000 megawatts of nuclear capacity by the turn of the century, including a 900-megawatts nuclear power plant to be commissioned by early 1990's. This was stated by the chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC] Mr Munir Ahmad Khan, while inaugurating a working group meeting of the regional cooperation agreement of the International Atomic Agency in Lahore today. The 4-day meeting is being attended by delegates from 10 member countries of the region. The People's Republic of China is attending the meeting for the first time as an observer.

The PAEC chairman said Pakistan believes in peaceful utilization of atomic energy with the sole objective of ensuring that its people could reap the economic and technical benefits resulting from research and development in these areas. He said that Pakistan was forced into a difficult situation regarding the Karachi nuclear power plant due to unilateral cancellation of the agreement by the supplier state, but it continued to operate the

plant through indigenous efforts, and its own fabricated fuel had achieved the maximum (?burn up) and met all the stringent quality-control criteria. He said technology is a common heritage of all mankind, and no country or a group of countries should claim a monopoly. There were no restrictions on the transfer of oil, minerals, and other valuable resources from Third World countries to the industrialized nations. Likewise, there should be no restriction from the flow of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in the other direction.

### Afghan Protest of Alleged Border Firing Rejected

*BK240508 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the protest by the Kabul authorities alleging that Pakistani Armed Forces fired at Barikowt, Konar Province, on 12, 13, and 14 March. The Kabul authorities have also alleged that, at the behest of the Pakistani Army, some people attacked an Afghan border post in Towr Kham on 8, 14, and 15 March, causing casualties. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office, and he was informed of Pakistan's rejection of the protest. He was asked to tell his authorities to desist from making such baseless allegations. He was informed that by making such frequent, baseless allegations, the attempts of the Kabul authorities to shift the responsibility for internal incidents in Afghanistan to Pakistan are revealed.

### Soviet Planes Strafe Afghan Civilian Areas

*BK241713 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] In Afghanistan, Soviet aircraft strafed civilian areas in the Arghandab subdivision of Qandahar Province, killing 14 civilians. The strafing came as a retaliation following a mujahidin attack on a Soviet-Karmal military convoy in the area. Meanwhile, mujahidin attacked a military post in (Boldok) subdivision of Zabul Province and killed a number of Karmal soldiers. Another report says a Soviet helicopter gunship was shot down while it was strafing mujahidin positions in the Barikowt area in Konar Province.

## SRI LANKA

### India's Bhandari Arrives for Talks on Tamils

*BK251412 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, has had talks in Colombo today with the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, and the foreign secretary, Mr Jayesingha. Mr Bhandari arrived in Colombo last night on a 3-day visit to the island to exchange views with the Sri Lankan authorities on the ethnic issue and other bilateral matters.

Later, Mr Bhandari met President Jayewardene. Our special correspondent, Praban Majumdar, reports that Mr Bhandari's discussions with President Jayewardene became very significant, which will pave the way for the Indian delegation to exchange views on many aspects of the ethnic issue.

Meanwhile, the Tamil militants have released three businessmen abducted 10 days ago in northern Jaffna Province.

### Premadasa on Opposition's Actions, Terrorism

*BK231124 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] The opposition was trying to create incidents when the government was facing a crisis. Was it correct for any party to obstruct the government, which they knew was facing war? This was a question posed by the prime minister, R. Premadasa, winding up the debate on the resolution to extend the emergency in parliament yesterday. The motion was passed with 123 voting for it and 1, the Communist Party member, voting against. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna members abstained from voting.

Mr Premadasa pointed out that the present strikes were being engineered to disrupt the government. It was ready to face the challenge. There were thousands now without jobs who could replace those who did not report for work. If bank employees refuse to do overtime, the finance division should recruit unemployed persons to cover the work. He said the bank employees are a privileged lot. These employees are trying to destroy the economy as their plan of action is more serious than the bank robberies by the terrorists.

Referring to terrorism, Mr Premadasa asked why India was harboring terrorists if it believes that the ethnic problem in the island cannot be solved through violence. He pointed out that the *SOUTH* magazine had recently carried reports that there are terrorist training centers in north India. The prime minister said that the armed forces in the north and east would immediately return to their barracks if the terrorists cease their violent activities.

### Premadasa Criticizes Opposition Role

*BK251119 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Excerpt] Prime Minister R. Premadasa has said that certain opposition groups are engaged in narrow politics at a time when there should be assistance in solving the ethnic problem. He charged that these groups are trying to make capital of the current crisis in the country. Mr Premadasa was speaking at Hiniduma yesterday where a mobile (?ministry) service program was held. Speaking further, the prime minister said that a political solution to the ethnic problem had been sought through the all party conference. He pointed out that the SLFP boycotted the conference on that occasion.

Mr Premadasa noted that the majority of the people in the north are innocent and opposed terrorism. Some of these people had even suffered death at the hands of the terrorists. Mr Premadasa further said that the opposition had organized several strikes to (?destabilize) the government in a situation where there is a war in the north. He said that the aim of these forces is to disrupt the government's development program.

### Athulathmudali Says 'Terrorists' Losing Strength

*BK241105 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Excerpt] The terrorists are gradually losing their strength; therefore, the people in the country should unitedly rise against terrorism. By doing so, they should make the terrorists aware that they would never be able to achieve their objective. These observations were made by the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, at several religious ceremonies in Moratuwas and Ratmalana yesterday.

The minister made it clear that as long as the terrorists were of the view that they could win their struggle, solutions to their problems could not be found through negotiation. At the same time, the government will also never give up military activities against them until they lay down their arms. What he wanted was to solve this issue by reducing the number of deaths to the minimum. Once again, he appealed to the people not to be misled by false propaganda.

Mr Athulathmudali yesterday completed the first year of his office as minister of national security.

### Athulathmudali Comments Further

*BK251115 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] The present crisis cannot be analyzed as being mainly due to the ethinic problem. Suspected terrorists in custody had stated that their objective was to establish a Marxist government, which clearly indicates that they do not expect a political solution to the problem. This was stated by the national security minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, at a ceremony held at Panadura yesterday.

Noting that the government was ready to face any attack, the minister challenged the terrorists to a direct fight. Mr Athula Thaudali pointed out that the situation the country is facing today was completely different from that which Bangladesh faced. He said the majority community in Bangladesh had appealed to India to send troops to the country. However, 90 percent of the people of this country are not at all prepared to make such a request.

The MP [member of Parliament] for Panadura, Mervin Jayakody, and the MP for Bandaragama, (Raja Samaranayake), also addressed the ceremony at the Panadura police station.

**Foreign Minister Hameed Comments on Terrorism**
*BK231118 Colombo International Service in English*
*1030 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed has asked whether there is anybody here or abroad who could guarantee a complete halt of terrorist activities, supposing a political solution was reached. He said that there is no guarantee that a political settlement would automatically result in the cessation of terrorist activities. Mr Hameed said that there is no doubt that a political solution has to be found to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. But this does not mean that we should be blind to other relevent and important aspects of the question. The foreign minister was speaking at an interschool sports meet at (Harasthwa) yesterday. Thirty schools participated in the meet.

Speaking further, Mr Hameed said that if we accept the argument of those who say that a political solution should precede any other settlement, it would amount to an acknowledgement by the international community that terrorism is a respectable means of settling issues. This is why democratic countries that have terrorist problems have taken up the position that they would not talk to terrorists until the terrorists give up violence or secessionist demands. He appealed to every citizen to extend their support to the president in his effort to eradicate terrorism and restore law and order in the country.

**Hameed Renews Proposal for Palk Strait Patrols**
*BK241133 Colombo International Service in English*
*1030 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed renewed his suggestion for a joint navy patrol in the Palk Strait and Palk Bay by Indian Coast Guards and the Sri Lanka Navy when he spoke at the opening of a science exhibition of schools in Harispattuwa South yesterday. The minister said that the friendship between Sri Lanka and India, which is as old as Adam's (?rib), demonstrated how a small island country and huge subcontinent could live in such friendship and close harmony. The permanent and everlasting bond that binds us is the message of the Buddha and there are over 50,000 Buddhists who visit India every year as pilgrims, while thousands of Indians visit Kataragama as pilgrims every year.

However, the minister expressed his regrets that there have been certain doubts and misunderstandings in the recent past both in Sri Lanka and in India over the question of terrorism. But, he added, that whatever differences may exist between the two countries, we must regard them as a temporary phase, and he was confident that with the enlightened leadership of the two countries such differences could be amicably resolved. The minister said that his suggestion for a joint navy patrol was a fair and reasonable arrangement to eliminate all kinds of misunderstandings and charges and countercharges between the two countries.

**Police Kill 7 'Terrorists' in Jaffna 24 March**
*BK241103 Colombo International Service in English*
*1030 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] Seven terrorists lost their lives in a gun battle with a police patrol party in Jaffna today. The police patrol party had noticed a van carrying the terrorists and ordered them to stop, but the terrorists tried to avoid the police party and in their unsuccessful attempt fell into a lagoon. They soon got out of the lagoon and started firing at the police. The police fired back, killing the seven terrorists, four of whom have been identified as hard core terorists belonging to the terrorist group TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization].

## Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks at Friday Prayers

*LD221316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1039 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] At a time when the airspace of several cities has become the target of violations by Iraqi aircraft, this week's Friday prayers were held throughout the country with even greater attendance than previous weeks by the various strata of the public. At a time when a red alert situation had been declared in Tehran and when antiaircraft defenses were operating fiercely against the intruding Iraqi aircraft, this week's Friday prayers were held in an epic atmosphere reverberating with slogans chanted by Tehran's revolutionary citizens under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

According to a report by a correspondent of the Central News Unit, a large group of worshippers in Tehran this week donned shrouds and took part in the Friday prayers ceremonies, chanting throughout the prayers the reverberating slogan: We have come here; we have come for martyrdom! Husayn, Husayn is our chant; martyrdom is our honor! They thereby demonstrated their firm resolve to continue the struggle against world arrogance and its subservient agents, particularly the Zionist regime in Baghdad.

The correspondent of the Central News Unit adds: Today's Friday prayers in Tehran were held at the height of epic grandeur and at a time when the Friday imam, in his sermons this week, was explaining our country's defensive policy toward the aggressors and the course of recent developments in the imposed war. At this same time the people, crying out from the depth of their souls, chanted the slogans: "War, war until victory, God is great, Death to the United States, and Death to Saddam," demanding loudly and clearly from the country's responsible leaders the continuation of the war, resistance until victory, and retaliation in kind; while the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, in his Friday prayers sermons this week expounded on the actions of the superpowers and Saddam's protectors in the imposed war, saying the following: [announcer-read]

When these people saw that they could not save Saddam in normal circumstances, they constantly plotted to save Saddam by creating crises. He saw the attacks on population centers, shipping, the problem of the POW's, and others as part and parcel of these artificial crises, saying: On the issue of our retaliating in kind, we have had for some time the capability of striking Baghdad and the furthest points in Iraq with rockets, but because of humanitarian considerations we did not do this.

The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, continuing his sermon, emphasized: We have begun retaliation in kind as a deterrent action to stop the hand of the Baghdad regime from perpetrating its crimes.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to the missile strike on a factory in Kirkuk and the strikes with several [as heard] missiles on Baghdad's sensitive political-economic center, the location of the Ba'th Party bosses, as a sign of the Islamic forces' operational and intelligence might, saying: The number of these missiles is so great that we have enough to last until the end of the war; and we declare here that in the not too distant future we shall launch our fifth missile. We have specified its target area, too: Baghdad!

The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, discussing the propaganda by world arrogance to the effect that Iran had not possessed these missiles and on their origin, then said: You should not say: Where have we acquired them? If you wish, we will attach the tag "Made in Iran" on subsequent missiles.

Emphasizing the fact that we have not wished and have no desire to strike at population centers, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We have determined our path and will continue the war on the ground.

They have forced us to strike with missiles, for otherwise the gates to our missile arsenals would have been locked until the day they are used against Israel.

The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, contrasting the situation in Iraq and Iran, discussed our people's reaction to the bombing of population centers and their epic resistance, and the normal situation and state of affairs in our country, with the reaction of our prisoners in Iraq to the internal situation in Iraq, the abnormal general state of affairs in that country, and the reaction of the Iraqi POW's in Iran.

In his sermons this week he stressed the fact that our main operations are still to come and that when the time is right we will take steps, saying: In the recent operations our combatants smashed through the toughest defensive lines and advanced up to 40 km east of the Tigris, capturing 3,000 POW's and killing thousands. We hereby declare that this is only a warning, a slap in the face to the Baghdad regime!

Referring to the propaganda of the world arrogance, which has attempted to portray the recent operations by the Islamic forces as an unsuccessful large-scale attack, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the following: The thought of releasing a flood of blood in order to reach our aim sickens us.

Therefore, we plan to create with our main operations the appropriate conditions to save the Iraqi people from the evil of their criminal rulers.

The pre-sermon speaker for this week's Friday prayers was Minister of Information Reyshahri.

## Khamene'i Visits Mashhad After 'Disturbances'

### Khamene'i Arrives in Mashhad

*LD230010 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Pr., March 22, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i arrived in Mashhad Friday for an unofficial visit and a pilgrimage to Imam Reza's shrine, the 8th imam of the Prophet's household. Khamene'i will deliver a speech to the people here on Saturday.

### Khamene'i on Airline Attacks

*LD231617 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] Mashhad, March 23, IRNA — President and head of the Supreme Defence Council, 'Ali Khamene'i, speaking to a large gathering of people here Saturday said that the Islamic Republic of Iran will never attack any passenger plane en route to and from Iraq. "We will save our warplanes to use at warfronts and to hit military targets in Iraq."

Further in his speech he added that the Iraqi ruler should not think that Iran will remain silent towards their attacks. "If the Iraqi regime carries out its threat against planes arriving in Iran from Europe, we will not strike against a passenger plane in Iraqi airspace, but we will level the Baghdad airport."

In continuation of his speech, referring to the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, launched in a strategically important region, he said that world powers joined together to damage the revolution. By damaging the Islamic Revolution of Iran which has created hope among the deprived masses, they wanted to prevent revival of Islam.

One attempt in this direction, he said, was imposition of the Iraqi-imposed war. The Iraqi regime waged the war on Iran through encouragement of the U.S., France and the reactionary regimes of the region. They supplied the Iraqi regime with armaments and were thinking that in a matter of few weeks or few months the war would end with the victory of the Iraqi regime, and they would be able to get their share of the war booty.

However, now after four and a half years of the Iraqi-imposed war, and severe blows of the Iranian forces on the Iraqi troops, the Iraqi regime has been battered and its supporters are gravely concerned.

As a result, he added, they are exerting more pressure on the Iraqi regime, and the Iraqi ruler, in order to save himself and avoid disappointing his supporters, is resorting to more inhuman crimes. Up to now the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to respond to inhuman acts of the Iraqi regime at warfronts. However, since Saddam is unable to challenge the Iranian forces, he has resorted to hitting ships, bombing cities and using chemical weapons, he added.

As we have stated before, we will make military moves whenever deemed appropriate and whenever it is in the interest of the country and the nation, the head of the Supreme Defence Council added. So far we have been victorious in all our military operations and in the latest operation the Iranian forces have dealt crushing blows on the Iraqis, said President Khamene'i.

On the Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities, and reprisal of Iran, he said "Saddam in order to make the Iranian officials to negotiate for peace, has threatened that it will bombard 30 Iranian cities." [sentence as received] We refrained from retaliating, but once our cities one by one came target of Iraqi attacks, retaliatory actions were carried out, he added.

Consequently the Iranian artillery forces shelled Iraqi economic targets in Kirkuk and Basra.

On the Iraqi threats in making the Iranian civil aviation traffic unsafe, he said that Saddam and his supporters know well that Iran will not hit a passenger plane and endanger lives of innocent people. Instead, he stressed the Iranian planes will hit military targets which will paralyse the Iraqi regime.

The Iraqi regime thinks in vain that hitting Iranian cities will make the situation in Iran critical. Such attacks rather further strengthen the Iranian nation and weaken the Iraqi regime.

At the end he pointed out that the Iraqi regime was totally desperate and the Iranian people should deal the final blows on it and liberate the Muslim people of Iraq.

### Clandestine on Mashhad 'Incidents'

*GF240725 (Clandestine) Nejat-e Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] The Nejat-e Iran correspondent in Mashhad reported that last Wednesday 20 March, coinciding with the New Year celebrations, about 25,000 people from Mashhad and other towns in the province gathered in the mosque of Imam Reza.

At this ceremony, after prayers and after the New Year celebrations which were presided over by the representative of Ayatollah Seyyed Hasan Tabataba'i, the people gathered in the courtyard of the mosque and started shouting slogans against the clergymen's regime.

These slogans started as Damn Ma'mun [as heard] but then these turned to: Damn the cruel ones, damn the dictator, damn the illiterate clergyman. At this time Mullah Tabasi and other prominent officials of the regime who were trying to prevent the mass surge of the mob left the scene.

The Revolutionary Guards from the komitehs associated with Imam Reza's mosque wanted to rush the mob and intended to start shooting rounds in the air.

They were prevented from doing so by the governor general, who took into consideration the large numbers of people present and the fact that these people could destroy the revolutionary guards, who were forced to withdraw and return to their barracks.

The Nejat-e Iran correspondent added: The ceremony on New Year's Eve in the mosque of the Eighth Imam of the Shi'ites continued until midnight and the numbers of those present increased every minute.

Under cover of the dark they distributed hundreds of thousands of leaflets and statements of Ayatollah Seyyed Hasan Tabataba'i Qomi among the people of Mashhad and some were pasted on walls in the city and in the bazaar.

It was 24 hours after these incidents that President Khamene'i went to Mashhad and met with Khomeyni's representative, Tabasi, and Shirazi, the Friday Imam of Mashhad. They discussed the turbulent situation in Mashhad.

### Army Clashes With Guards

*GF241920 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] According to a correspondent of Nejat-e Iran radio in western Iran, increasing disagreement between the Armed Forces' and Guards' commanders over the (?conduct of the war) has caused the death of a large number of soldiers and the Iraqi capture of a large number of Guards' personnel during the past 2 weeks. In an armed clash between a number of officers from Mashhad's 77th Army and some Guards, all of whom were stationed at Hoveyzeh, three Guards commanders were killed by an noncommissioned officer who then committed suicide. 'Ali Mohammad Karimi and Naser Hamidi were two of them.

The incident occurred halfway between Misan and Bostan fronts and was caused by the disagreement between the Engineering Corps personnel of the 77th Army and Guards personnel. The Armed Forces personnel refused to obey incorrect and nontechnical commands by the Guards. Problems concerning the lack of training for the Guards in the use of arms and military techniques has caused numerous incidents at the fronts, the worst cases of which have occurred during the battles of the past 2 weeks. A guardsman recently captured by the Iraqis told foreign correspondents in a POW camp in Iraq that those dispatched to the fronts undergo weapon training at Guards centers for only a week and cannot really use their weapons.

## Reportage on War Situation, Missile Attacks

### Communique on Airspace Violations

*LD221523 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 22, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of 13 cities in Iran in the past 24 hours, but were chased by antiaircraft fire and Iranian fighter planes in most cases.

One person was martyred and 21 others were injured in an air raid against the southern port-city of Bushehr at 12:15 (08:45 GMT) Friday, the Joint Staff reported. It said 5 homes were destroyed.

In a communique, the Joint Staff also reported air violations against Tehran, Saqqez, Hamadan, Arak and Sanandaj by Iraqi aircraft while people were at Friday mass prayer gatherings.

In addition, IRNA correspondents reported air violations on the cities of Qazvin, Urumiyeh, Bakhtaran, Eslamabad, and Gilan-e Gharb at around the same time.

Earlier at 10:20 am (06:50 GMT), a lone Iraqi plane penetrated Tehran airspace. It broke the sound barrier, as it was chased by Iranian fighter planes and anti-aircraft fire, the communique said.

Enemy planes flew over Khorramabad at 8:48 pm (17:18 GMT) and over Arak at 7:00 pm (15:30 GMT) Thursday night.

At 10:20 am (06:50 GMT), Iraqi planes flew over Zanjan, 330 kms east of Tehran, under heavy anti-aircraft fire.

IRNA correspondent in Bushehr said today's bombing was carried out by two Iraqi warplanes against four areas in the city. Ten people were treated for minor injuries and the remaining 11 were hospitalised.

Meanwhile, the Joint Staff said Iranian artillery shells "poured" on 10 Iraqi border cities, including Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, and Zurbatiyah, on Thursday, inflicting losses and damages.

In the fronts, it said the most intense clashes in the south took place in the Nahr-Anbar and Majnun Island fronts, and in the Sardasht region in the north.

Across the Arvand River, the Islamic forces destroyed more than 5 Iraqi mortar and heavy machine gun positions along with their personnel, it added.

### Chemical Weapons Victims in Europe

*LD221628 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] Bonn, March 22, IRNA — Thirty-three Iranian combatants suffering from chemical weapons deployed by Iraq were transferred to Europe Thursday night [21 March] on a special Iran-Air flight.

Three of them were taken to Brussels, eight to Vienna and nine to London where they would be treated by chemical experts. Five of the victims were also taken for treatment to Munich and eight to Recklinghausen. The combatants were poisoned by Iraqi chemical gases in the Badr Operation in the southern battle front last week.

### Visitors Examine Iraqi Damage

*LD230005 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pr., March, 22 IRNA — A group of Mojahedin from the Arabian peninsula Thursday visited cities destroyed by the Iraqi regime in the Dasht-e Azadegan region, Khuzestan Province, Thursday.

"Despite increasing financial and military support for the Iraqi regime from Saudi Arabia, the Islamic combatants will achieve victory over the enemies of Islam, with God's help" one of the Mojahedin said.

The group also met with the Friday prayer leader in Susangerd who spoke about the Islamic Revolution.

### 6 Dead in Iraqi Air Attack

*LD221751 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] Bakhtaran, March 22, IRNA — Thursday's air attack on Gilan-e Gharb and near-by villages in the western part of Iran, martyred six people and injured 40 others. Four Iraqi warplanes carried out the attack, during which 10 homes were also destroyed and a number of livestock were killed. Meanwhile, a number of Iraqi aircraft violated the airspace of Khorramabad at 12:15 and 15:50 pm (08:45 and 12:20 GMT) today but were

forced to flee by intense anti-aircraft fire.

**Kuwaiti Support for Iraq Condemned**
*LD231250 Tehran IRNA in English 1140 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 23, IRNA — The Kuwaiti daily *AL-SIYASAH*, in an article in its Saturday issue encouraged the Iraqi regime to continue its missile and air attacks on the Iranian cities. According to the article, continuous Iraqi attacks will press Iran to accept peace proposals.

Ironically, the Kuwaiti foreign minister has announced his readiness to mediate in the Iraqi imposed war.

The newspaper which receives financial support from the Iraqi regime has added that Iran by winning the war will pose 'anger on the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region.

Meanwhile the Kuwaiti press in continuation of their siding with the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, have kept silent on the Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons in warfronts and transfer of some 33 of the afflicted Iranian forces to hospitals in Europe.

In previous similar incidents, the Kuwaiti media did not mentioned a word on Iraqi deployment of the toxic chemicals against the Iranian forces.

**Communique No 2,051**
*LD231619 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 23, IRNA — The Iranian forces Saturday by keeping their artillery and mortar fire on the Iraqi positions in the operational areas of west and north west, preventing any movement of the Iraqi forces, said the Joint Staff Communique No. 2051 issued here Sunday. [as received]

In these fronts, the Iranian forces destroyed parts of the enemy positions, bunkers, and military fortifications and halted operation of enemy patrol groups, it added.

In Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts the Iranian units kept the Iraqi forces in west bank of Arvand River, under fire and set ablaze five Iraqi bunkers and the Iraqi military personnel.

Meanwhile the Iranian artillery attacks on the Iraqi cities of Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, Sayyid Sadiq, Halabjah, Khurmal, Biarah, Hanidel, Chuwartah, Zurbatiyah, Ramhoroz and Badrah, Saturday inflicted damages on military and economic installations in these cities.

During the past 24 hours, it added, the Iranian forces repelled most of the Iraqi intruding planes.

**Iraqi Positions Hit in Bakhtaran**
*LD231707 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] Bakhtaran, March 23, IRNA — The Iranian forces in the past 24 hours destroyed 11 individual bunkers, two outposts in Bakhtaran and Ilam fronts, western Iran, killing some 22 of the Iraqi forces.

Meanwhile, during the said period, an Iranian patrol unit in Banijan area of Iraq, set ablaze an Iraqi personnel carrier killing 22 of its passengers.

In the past 24 hours the Iranian anti-air units repulsed intruding enemy warplanes from airspace of Bakhtaran, Eslamabad-e Gharb, Sonqor-e Koliaie, Gilan-e Gharb, and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab.

**Commentary on Badr Operations**
*GF232020 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Despite their limited nature, the Badr operations affirmed a series of facts that have strategic value in the conflict with the oppressive ruling regime in Baghdad. One of these facts is our brave Islamic forces' ability to direct any blow at any point. On the other hand, the enemy forces are weak and totally unable to continue their confrontation of the forces of justice.

The people — as Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in his Friday sermon — should benefit from the circumstances that were imposed on the Iraqis following the Badr operations in order to practice their Islamic and national role in purifying the Iraqi land from the Ba'thist hypocrisy which today is wearing a number of faces, one which is turned to Washington, another to the Kremlin, and another to Paris, London, Rome, and all the capitals of paganism and infidelity in the world.

The Iraqi people will not find themselves alone in the field of confrontation but they will find out that all the sons of the nation will be strong with their weapons directed toward the enemies of Islam who are Saddam and his assistants.

**POW's Paraded Through Cities**
*GF240620 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] The second group of the 3,000 Iraqi POW's who have been captured in the Badr operations by the warriors of Islam were paraded yesterday through the streets of Ahvaz, Dezful and Andimeshk. They then set off for Tehran.

According to the Central News Unit while the prisoners were paraded through the streets of Ahvaz, Dezful and Andimeshk large groups of people from these towns shouted slogans such as: "Death to the United States," "Death to Saddam," and "War Until Victory" and welcomed the POW's.

Also according to the Central New Unit from Khorramabad, another group of Iraqi POW's who were captured by the forces of Islam in the Badr operations, were taken to Khorramabad last night at 1900 [1530 GMT] by 30 buses, and were welcomed by the martyr-rearing people of this town.

### Iraqi POW's Interviewed

*LD241923 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] Khorramabad, Lorestan Pr., March 24, IRNA — More than 1,000 Iraqi troops taken captive in Badr operation east of the Tigris river, arrived here in buses Saturday night and were taken on a tour of residential areas destroyed in the recent Iraqi missile attack.

The captives — among more than 3,000 Iraqis captured in the operation — left for Tehran Sunday where they would be taken to POW camps.

As their buses moved through the city, they were greeted with thousands of people who stood on both sides of the street, shouting 'War, war, till victory', 'Death to Saddam' and 'Death to America'.

Interviewed by IRNA, Reserve Private Salman Sayyid Muhammad Nur Musavi, said he had tried many times to escape serving in the Army, but the last time he was forced to give a commitment that if he did not go to the front, he and his family would be executed.

Private Muhammad Abbas, a teacher, said Iraqis did not want to fight the Islamic Republic and the empty classrooms were proof that the regime was forcing students to join the Army.

### POW's To Arrive in Tehran

*LD250540 Tehran IRNA in English 0536 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — The second group of more than 1,000 Iraqi troops taken captive in the Badr offensive will arrive in Tehran Monday. Reporters and photographers with valid press cards can visit the group at the Takhti camp-stadium, located east of Tehran, at 12:30 pm today.

### 'Retaliatory Actions' Halted

*LD241727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] Following Iraq's cessation of attacks on residential areas in our country and on our commercial ships, during the past 24 hours, up to this morning [as heard], the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced: Since the aggressor Ba'thist regime of Iraq has halted its aerial attacks, missile attacks, and artillery fire on the cities and residential areas of our Islamic homeland, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following orders from the commander in chief, halted its retaliatory actions against military and economic centers in Iraqi cities.

The announcement stresses: If the enemy fires a shell on any of our cities or residential areas, the towns opposite that same region will be brought under even heavier fire by our mighty combatants.

Yesterday, several military and economic centers in Iraqi cities, along the fronts of the imposed war, were brought under the artillery fire of the combatants of Islam. The aggressor enemy suffered considerable losses and casualties.

Yesterday, of the southern fronts, Kushk and Zayd sectors were the scenes of more intense exchanges of fire. Gendarmerie combatants killed at least five Iraqi soldiers along the banks of the Arvand River and set alight more than 10 weapons' emplacements and observation posts.

On the north western fronts, our forces' heavy fire silenced enemy fire, killed or injured 15 enemy forces, and damaged 5 enemy light and heavy vehicles.

Yesterday, enemy aerial incursions into the airspace of our Islamic homeland were foiled by our air defense units and the tactical measures taken by the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

### Clandestine on Ahvaz Evacuation

*GF241930 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] Ahvazis have started to evacuate their city. A Nejat-e Iran correspondent in a phone report from Ahvaz told us that the people of Ahvaz and environs started leaving the city Friday afternoon for other cities. Currently on all roads leading from Ahvaz to Khorramabad, Kermanshah, and Pol-e Dokhtar, a large number of Ahvazis can be seen on foot or riding bicycles, motorcycles, vans, and private cars. The Iraqis threat to bombard Ahvaz, considering the recent enemy attacks against other civilian parts of the country which have caused great losses, has caused the Ahvazis to leave their homes and places of work for safer areas before the Iraqis carry out their threat.

Our correspondent noted the shortage of foodstuffs during the past 4 days in various parts of Khuzestan and stated that bread, meat, eggs, and rice are rare and can be found occasionally at incredible prices. However, the major issue is the supply of potable water during the hot season in this region. The agents of the regime are not paying the least bit of attention to this. In addition, employees of a number of government organizations left their posts yesterday and have refused to go to their offices. Those who are natives of Ahvaz have left for other cities with their families and as a result, chaos and insecurity of incredible proportions exist in Ahvaz and environs.

Our correspondent noted that the city of Ahvaz looks like a war-stricken, broken, derelict city without people, adding that according to local observers, a similar condition exists in other cities of Khuzestan such as Masjed Soleyman, Dugonbadan, [name indistinct], and Aqajari. Abadan and Khorramshahr have been like this for months now.

### Iraqi Jets Hit 2 Tankers

*LD241732 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Pr., March 24, IRNA — Two oil tankers were hit by Iraqi warplanes near the Khark Island oil terminal at about noon Sunday. [24 March]

Fire broke out on both tankers but was later contained. A tug-boat has been sent for help.

The first tanker, the 50,000-ton Maltese *Eastern Star*, was hit by an Exocet missile at 11:45 (08:15 GMT), causing extensive damage to its engine room.

*Eastern Star* was sailing 40 miles south of Bushehr towards the Khark Island oil terminal.

Another Exocet missile ripped through the front and right-side of a 250,000-ton Italian tanker, *Volere*, at 12:00 (08:30 GMT). No one was hurt and damage is said to be slight and repairable.

The tanker had been fully loaded with crude oil at Khark Island and was sailing 15 miles south of here at the time of the attack. Its load poured into the sea.

Meanwhile an official here told IRNA the sound of an explosion was heard near the Khark Island at about 6:00 (02:30 GMT).

The cause of the explosion is unclear but there have been no reports of casualties or material damage in the area.

**Iraqis Urged To Rebel**

*GF241902 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Decisive stands have not ended yet, the war is not over, and rifles will not be silenced until the wheel of backwardness which is represented in the gangs of murder and terrorism in Baghdad stops. Days, months, and years have no value except as much as they accomplish. Even if the war lasts scores of years, it will remain the greatest song for the millions of people until their thunderous slogan "War, war until victory" comes true. Our people who, in their near and distant history, made glorious victories are able to meet with history once more in order to renew this experience.

Our people learned from God's book and from the words of their great leader numerous meanings for the concept of straightforwardness. Saddam today faces this weapon, and this is indeed a tough confrontation. They thought it would be one round, but the determination of men turned the one round into a battle. The 4-week battle, as planned by the Ba'thists, became a 4-year and 5-year battle, and still we do not know how long it will continue. However, it is certain that one day it will end and that its end is very soon, God willing.

The faith of our brave brothers in God's promise that he made to the believers will make them more determined to continue the war without any hesitation as long as Saddam and his aides continue to be in their castles having their meals on top of the skulls of innocent people. The war will end only through the integration of all efforts. It is the war of Islam against blasphemy, an example of the historic conflict between Islam and its enemies, and a war of life or death launched by the aggressors in order to eradicate us as a nation with civilization and culture, and in order to annul our message that again started to open its way into life. Thus, it is the duty of every Muslim to contribute as much as he can in this bitter conflict. This duty summarizes the basic functions of the Muslim nation, which is living in the hardest stages of its history in confronting a stream of enemies who came from the East and West and who united their word and joined their plots in this war that was launched by Iraq's tyrant against our Muslim people.

The Muslim people in Iraq are foremost among those requested to contribute to the fields of confrontation. If these people are waiting for the golden opportunity to declare their uprising and begin their actual participation in the war, here is the opportunity. As said by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council and the Friday prayer temporary imam, the Iraqi people, and particularly their revolutionary vanguards, are left with no option but to join history and declare a revolution that would not end with the elimination of the tyrants. These people will find a nation of millions who will stand by them, bless their steps, and support them until God fulfills his promise to his messengers and righteous servants.

**'Retaliation' Attack on Baghdad**

*LD250339 Tehran IRNA in English 0336 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA -- Baghdad came under Iran's fifth missile attack Monday in retaliation for Iraqi attacks against two oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and the violation of Iranian airspace in a number of cities.

"We targeted our firey missiles at the heart of Baghdad at before dawn in order to warn the adventurous Iraq regime once again and to force it to stop attacks and the destruction of residential areas, ships and commercial flights," The War Information HQ said in a statement addressed to the Iraqi people.

Iraqi jets fired Exocet missiles at Maltese and Italian oil tankers near Iran's Khark Island, causing extensive damage to the first and slightly damaging the other.

Earlier, Iran had announced a halt in attacks on Iraqi cities following a halt in Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities on Saturday. But it had warned that renewed attacks on cities or in the Persian Gulf would be fiercely retaliated.

"We want to show this regime that we stand firm on our word and we will give a pounding reply to the Baghdad regime against every attack," the statement said.

"This regime showed once again it intends to continue its mischief and adventurism, and intends to spread the war until it makes the Persian Gulf and shipping there, completely insecure."

It said: "Following Iran's humanitarian move in announcing a halt in attacks on Iraqi cities -- upon condition that the Iraqi regime stops attacks on cities, ships and (commercial) aircraft -- unfortunately the Iraqi regime in several instances violated the airspace of Iranian cities Sunday. Such as Ahvaz, Bushehr and Zanjan and damaged two commercial ships in the Persian Gulf."

But it added that Iran would stop attacks on Iraqi residential areas as soon as Iraq stopped its attacks on nonmilitary targets, or else, Iran would retaliate future attacks "twice as hard". "We will leave Iraqi cities in ruins."

The Iraqi people should leave for safe cities in case the Iraqi regime resumes its attacks, the statement said.

**Report on Baghdad Missile Attack**

*GF250525 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] The strong Islamic fighters at 0430 Tehran time this morning gave a pounding reply to Sunday's aggression by Iraqi aircraft within Iranian airspace over Iranian cities, and their attacks on two commercial ships in the Persian Gulf off the Iranian coast; they did this by making a target of Baghdad, the center of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq. This missile attack, which was the fifth such missile attack on Baghdad by the Islamic Army, hit a point near Saddam's palace and exploded with a fearful sound. It shock all of Baghdad.

According to IRNA, following the Iraqi regime's suspension of attacks on the residential areas of our country and on commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf, the Ba'thist enemy, by violating the airspace of several Iranian cities and attacking two commercial ships off the southern coast of Iran in the Persian Gulf on Sunday, proved that this regime is not ready to give up its machinations and adventurism, and needs yet another lesson. Thus, the strongmen of the army of the one God attacked the heart of Baghdad and gave a pounding reply to the Baghdad regime.

Meanwhile, AFP reported from Baghdad that a huge explosion was heard this morning a few moments before 0400 local time in Baghdad. According to this report, immediately after the explosion a column of dirty smoke was seen in the center of the city on the left bank of the Tigris River and police cars and ambulances were seen moving in that region.

**Baghdad Attacks Reviewed**

*LD250544 Tehran IRNA in English 0513 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — Iran carried out a missile attack against the Iraqi capital early Monday following renewed Iraqi aggressions on non-military targets.

The attack at 04:30 (01:00 GMT) was the fifth against Baghdad. Earlier attacks struck the heart of Baghdad's financial and administrative district.

The first missile destroyed the Al-Rafidayn Bank. The second hit an area two blocks away from Saddam Husayn's presidential compound, the third ruined a new Foreign Ministry building, and the fourth reportedly hit a building next the the central Ba'th Party HQ.

Iraq described the first two as bomb attacks by "Iranian agents" but fell silent on the other missile attacks.

Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani had warned on Friday that Iran would fire a missile at Baghdad in the not-too-distant future, "depending on their (Iraq's) mischief."

"This time, when it hits (Baghdad), don't say Iran has no missiles. And don't say from where they (Iran) got them from. This time, if you want, we will write 'made in Iran' on it so that it would become clear for you," Rafsanjani said.

**WIH on Baghdad Attack**

*LD251105 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran is not willing to destroy Iraqi cities, however, vicious acts of the Iraqi rulers, make Iran to reciprocate, said the spokesman for the War Information Headquarters here Monday.

Commenting on the Monday morning missile attack on the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, he said that the fifth Iranian missile was launched against Baghdad in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on two commercial ships in the Persian Gulf waters Sunday and also violation of airspace of several Iranian cities.

The missile attack was carried out to give the Iraqi regime a warning that Iran will retaliate against any aerial, missile, and artillery attacks on Iranian residential areas and hitting of commercial ships, he told IRNA.

On halting artillery fire on the Iraqi cities including the port city of Basra, he said it is very easy for Iran to destroy Iraqi cities. However, he added, "since we are not interested in destroying cities, we will not be the one to initiate such attacks."

He once again appealed to international organisations to take a firm stance towards Iraq's violation of international regulations.

**Iraqi Jets Fire on Tehran**

*LD250403 Tehran IRNA in English 0400 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — Two Iraqi jets violated Tehran airspace before dawn Monday, firing rockets and breaking the sound barrier over the city. The enemy planes fired three rockets in a desolate area of Tehran as they escaped the Iranian capital at 04:45 am (01:15 GMT) under heavy anti-aircraft fire.

**Allegation of Shelling Rejected**

*LD250533 Tehran IRNA in English 0530 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — The Army Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic said today that the shelling of all Iraqi cities was halted after 9:00 pm (17:30 GMT) Saturday and rejected further shelling of Basra, as alleged by Iraq.

However, the Joint Staff announcement added that renewed Iraqi attacks on Iranian residential areas would be replied by the Islamic forces "with full force."

### Velayati Sends Letter to UN

*LD251417 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 25 IRNA — The Islamic Republic today reiterated its preparedness to halt its attacks on Iraqi cities in case Iraq too discontinued attacks on Iran's civil areas and oil tankers in the Persian Gulf.

In a letter to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati also reminded that Monday's surface-to-surface missile attack on Baghdad was merely in retaliation for Iraq's resumption of attacks on Iranian cities and particularly on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf "over the past two days."

Following a 24 hour halt by Iraq in attacking Iranian cities and commercial ships in the Persian Gulf, the Islamic Republic announced Sunday that it has reciprocally halted its attacks on Iraqi cities, including its shelling of the port city of Basra.

However, Iran launched its fifth missile on Baghdad early Monday after Iraq attacked two oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and violated airspace in a number of Iranian cities.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, ... while preserving the right of retaliation, is ready to halt its attacks on Iraqi cities if Iraq too stopped its air, missile, and artillery attacks on Iran's civil areas as well as its attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf," said Velayati's letter to De Cuellar.

### Air Intrusions Noted

*LD250957 Tehran IRNA in English 0954 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — The intruding Iraqi warplanes violated airspace of Esfahan, Esfahan Province, Khorramabad, Lorestan Province, Kashan, Central Province and Sanandaj, Kordestan Province early Monday morning. In all these cases the intruding planes were chased away by the Iranian anti-aircraft units stationed in the area.

### Esfahan Bombing Detailed

*LD251433 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] Theran, March 25, IRNA — An Iraqi air raid on a residential area of Esfahan, Esfahan Province, has left one martyred and 15 others injured.

An Iraqi rocket destroyed two homes and three shops in this attack.

Meanwhile, the intruding Iraqi warplanes, violated airspace of Arak and Khomeyni (Central Pr.), Qazvin (Zanjan Pr.), Piranshahr (W. Azarbayjan Pr.), Bushehr (Bushehr Pr.), Hamedan (Hamedan Pr.), and Bakhtaran (Bakhtaran Pr.).

The Iraqi attacks were repelled but the invading enemy planes dropped several rockets on Arak, Bakhtaran, Piranshahr and Khomeyni. So far no report on possible casualties or damage is available.

### Iraqi Plane Shot Down

*LD251544 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 25 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — Three Iraqi warplanes were shot down over Iran's Khark Island oil terminal today.

Military sources said several enemy planes tried to bomb the island, but three of them were shot down by Iranian jet fighters and heavy anti-aircraft fire.

Iraqi planes hit and damaged two oil tankers near the island with missiles on Sunday. Iran retaliated with a missile attack on Baghdad this morning.

### Iranian, PDRY Deputy Ministers Hold Talks in Aden

*LD230006 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 22, IRNA — South Yemen and Iran expressed interest in expansion of ties and joint anti-imperialist struggle in a meeting in Aden Wednesday.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Arab handed a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to his South Yemeni counterpart, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and discussed regional developments and the imposed Iraqi war.

Arab said the Islamic Republic is interested in the expansion of ties with progressive countries in the region.

South Yemen's deputy foreign minister who was present in the meeting said such meetings would help in the expansion of ties and the deepening of the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist struggle. He said his government appreciated Iran's acceptance of a U.N. call for the banning of attacks on civilians.

### Majlis Delegation Departs for Togo Conference

*LD230002 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 22 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 22, IRNA — Six Majlis deputies Thursday left Tehran for Togo, West Africa, to attend the 73rd inter-parliamentary conference to be held from March 25-30. The delegation is 'ed by the head of Majlis Foreign Relations Committee, Ahmad Azizi.

The conference is to discuss disarmament, chemical warfare, the Middle East, Iran-Iraq war and the Third World debt crisis. Iranian delegates will also forward proposals on safeguarding air travel and on the problem of international terrorism.

### Montazeri Meets With Theology Students in Qom

*LD231417 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 23 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 23 IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in a meeting with a group of theological students from Tehran and other cities, in the holy city of Qom last week, stressed the need for committed and well informed theologians with full knowledge about political and economic issues.

Present conditions of the world and dissemination of Western and Eastern philosophies among the youth, he told the visitors, call for such qualifications.

Meanwhile in a separate meeting Aytollah Montazeri received Minister of Agriculture 'Abbas 'Ali Zali.

Furthermore, a group of other visitors from various provincial cities presented public cash donations to be used for warfronts.

**Clandestine on Iranian Chemical Weapons Factory**

*GF240730 (Clandestine) Nejat-e Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Mar 85*

[Text] The correspondent of Nejat-e Iran has informed us that the conversion of the chemical fertilizer factory in Marvdasht to a unit capable of manufacturing chemical bombs and mustard gas for use in military fields and in war has almost been completed.

Conversion work on the factory started 3 years ago under the supervision of Italian and German experts. Its output capability has been increased and new machinery have been installed with the aim of making chemical weapons. Its conversion and expansion has continued. According to the latest reports, these activities have almost been completed.

Retaliatory actions and efforts to make up for defeat in the war have now so distressed the clergy in Tehran that they are not bothered by the possibility of creating another sickening scene in the war with Iraq which could possibly cause the death of millions of our compatriots.